REPUBLIC OF KOSOVA
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

NEWSLETTER

June 2022

MINISTER MEHAJ AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL JASHARI WITH DIGNIFIED REPRESENTATION IN FRONT OF ABOUT 50 STATES AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE UKRAINE DEFENSE CONTACT GROUP

At the General Staff of NATO in Brussels, the Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj and the Commander of the KSF Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, in June, together with the ministers and chiefs of defense of about 50 countries, participated in the monthly Conference of the Group of Defense Contact of Ukraine (UDCG).

Their participation was at the invitation of the US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin III. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj, in his speech, emphasized the measures of the Republic of Kosovo against the Russian aggression in Ukraine, as well as the actions taken by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo are in function of supporting the government and the Ukrainian people in their cause. Then, on the sidelines of the conference, Minister Mehaj together with General Jashari met Secretary Austin as well as the Commander of the American Command for Europe, who is also the Supreme Commander of NATO for Europe, 4-star General Tod D. Wolters. In addition, they met many defense ministers and chiefs, such as Canada, the Netherlands, Albania, Croatia, Poland, Latvia, Montenegro, etc. This is the highest representation so far of the Minister of Defense and the Commander of the KSF, together, at the international defense level.

MINISTER MEHAJ PARTICIPATED IN THE FINAL EXECUTION OF MULTINATIONAL MILITARY EXERCISE "EFES' 2022" IN TURKEY

At the invitation of the Minister of National Defense of Turkey, Hulus Akar, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, has participated in the Day of Distinguished Visitors in the largest military exercise of the Turkish armed forces with partner forces "EFES 2022". In this exercise, the KSF participated with a military contingent, alongside 11,000 troops from 38 other countries around the world. Minister Mehaj and the Minister of National Defense of Turkey, Hulusi Akar, assessed that participation in such exercises is in line with the close cooperation between the two ministries and the forces, and both agreed to intensify further cooperation in the interest of peace, security, and stability in the region and beyond.

Minister Mehaj, among other things, thanked Minister Akar for the opportunity given as well as the support and continuous contribution to the development of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. From his part, Minister Akar reiterated the readiness for the continuation of the open-handed support of the Republic of Turkey for the membership of the Republic of Kosovo in international security and regional defense organizations, in the Partnership for Peace Program for membership in NATO, as well as membership in the Council of Europe.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF TURKEY TOWARDS THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

The Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, at the invitation of his Turkish counterpart, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey, General Jashar Guler, during the month of June, made a three-day official visit to Turkey. During his stay in Turkey, General Jashari, accompanied by General Guler, was hosted in an official meeting by the Minister of Defense of Turkey, Hulusi Akar, where they discussed a number of issues starting from security developments in Europe, those in the region and challenges in the security and defense sector. A special topic of discussion was Turkey's support for Kosovo for participation in the Partnership for Peace program and the NATO membership process. Among other things, with the Minister of Defense, General Jashari discussed the close cooperation and support from the Republic of Turkey and the Ministry of Defense of Turkey towards the modernization of the systems and equipment of the Kosovo Security Force. Likewise, General Jashari was received with high honors at the General Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, by Chief General Guler. In the meeting with General Guler, the participation with an excellent performance of the KSF members in the international field exercise in Turkey "EFES'2022" was discussed. General Jashari also visited the Land Force Command and the Special Forces Command. On this occasion, General Jashari, from the commanders of the relevant units, was informed of their developments and capacities. With the commanders of these units, he agreed to increase the number of KSF members participating in training and professional education offered by them.

THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE WAS VISITED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO, VJOSA OSMANI-SADRIU

The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani-Sadriu, visited the KSF in June, where she was received by the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari. On this occasion, President Osmani was presented with the general situation, security situation, operations, capacities, international military cooperation, as well as the plans of the KSF. The President also had the opportunity to discuss more closely with the KSF commander about the needs of the KSF and offered her support for the developments of the KSF and the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan. At the end of the visit, President Osmani and Lieutenant General Jashari had lunch together with cadets, soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers of the KSF where they had the opportunity to talk about their challenges and well-being as soldiers of the Kosovo Army.

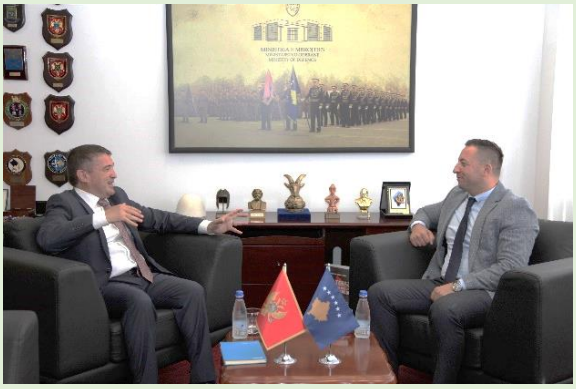
DEEP GRATITUDE TO THE USA FOR THE CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE KSF

Minister Mehaj, in a meeting with the US Ambassador to Kosovo, Jeffrey M. Hovenier, discussed current developments in the regional security environment and beyond, support and joint activities between the two countries and our forces.

In this meeting, Minister Mehaj expressed deep gratitude to the USA for its irreplaceable support for Kosovo in the construction, development, and overall advancement of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF. Bilateral cooperation between our two countries prioritizes effective service to regional and global peace, stability, and security; it was further said in this meeting.

"U.S. support up to date is vital in developing operational and inteoperable capabilities and with allied forces of partner and NATO member countries, for the KSF's participation in operations abroad together with U.S. military forces and its allies", said Minister Armend Mehaj.

BILATERAL NEIGHBORHOOD COOPERATION WITH MONTENEGRO IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF GREAT INTEREST FOR REGIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY



In the meeting between the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj and the new Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of Montenegro in Kosovo, Ambassador Mirsad Bibovic, the forms of cooperation, and the coordination of activities between our respective ministries and forces in regional initiatives were discussed. Minister Mehaj thanked Ambassador Bibovic for the support and support of Montenegro for the Euro-Atlantic and European integration process. In the meeting, it was emphasized that bilateral cooperation with Montenegro in the field of defense and security is of great interest to regional security and stability.

EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH SLOVENIA IS IN THE INTEREST OF REGIONAL AND WIDER SECURITY

In the framework of the commitment to deepen cooperation with the partner countries of our region, the Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, has received the ambassador of Slovenia in Kosovo, Minca Benedejcic. In this meeting, the deepening of the partnership between our two countries was discussed, among other things, also in the field of security and defense, and both interlocutors agreed that this cooperation, apart from being in the interest of both countries, is also of great importance for security, stability and general prosperity regionally and beyond.

DELEGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO THE FAMOUS EXHIBITION "EUROSATORY 2022" IN PARIS

The delegation of the Ministry of Defense consisting of the Director of the Directorate of Human Resources, Brigadier General Nazmi Brahimaj, the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Defense, Agime Gashaj and the Director of the Department for International Cooperation, Colonel Sylejman Cakaj, have participated in the largest exhibition of the land, air defense and security industry, "Eurosatory 2022". This major global event of the defense and security industry brought together security and defense institutions, innovators, as well as the largest companies from around the world.

HIGH QUALITY HEALTHCARE OF OUR MILITARY IS ONE OF MINISTER MEHAJ'S MAIN OBJECTIVES

In the framework of inter-institutional cooperation with non-governmental organizations, in June, KOPF-Kosova Population Foundation, in the premises of the "Adem Jashari" Barracks, carried out with our soldiers the campaign "Greetings", which is part of the project "Accessible quality health care ".

The overall goal of the Accessible Quality Healthcare (AQH) project is to improve the health of the population of Kosovo, with a focus on non-communicable diseases, especially hypertension, diabetes, and asthma.

Inter-institutional cooperation and similar projects are welcomed in order to exchange professional experiences with the professional health personnel of the KSF.

MINISTER MEHAJ AND GENERAL JASHARI FINALIZED THE ORGANIZATIONAL TABLE OF PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE KOSOVO SECURITY FORCE

By order of the Commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, within the framework of the constitutional and legal mandate of the KSF, and based on the Comprehensive Transition Plan, the review of the organization of the structure, personnel and equipment was carried out and completed, in compliance with the mission, duties and needs of the KSF. After analyzes and consultations at the KSF level and with the support of our strategic partners, the Organizational Table of Personnel and Equipment (TOPP) was finalized. Both leaders thanked and congratulated the working groups for their professional commitment towards the development of the new structure. This constitutes a very important step towards achieving the operational capacities of the KSF for the fulfillment of the constitutional and legal mission.

CANADA IS AMONG OUR VERY IMPORTANT PARTNERS IN OUR EUROATLANTIC GOALS

In a meeting with the non-resident ambassador of Canada in Kosovo, Alan Bowman, Minister Mehaj expressed his gratitude for the Canadian support for Kosovo in general, as well as the will to deepen bilateral cooperation in the field of defense and security. While Ambassador Bowman expressed gratitude for the commitment of the Republic of Kosovo in supporting the humanitarian operation for the evacuation and shelter of Afghan refugees. Also, following Minister Mehaj's announcement of the achievements and challenges in the development process of the KSF, Ambassador Bowman expressed his readiness for support from the Canadian Armed Forces.

MINISTER MEHAJ IN THE MEETING WITH THE FORMER GERMAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, RUDOLF SCHARPING

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, hosted the former Minister of Defense of Germany, Rudolf Scharping. On this occasion, Minister Mehaj thanked and expressed his deep gratitude for the strong support of NATO's intervention in our cause of freedom and for the great contribution of the German forces within KFOR, in the first years of post-war during his leadership, a contribution which has continued uninterrupted and continues today. Minister Mehaj and former Minister Scharping also discussed the current developments in the security environment, as well as the development processes of the Ministry of Defense and the KSF, emphasizing the support from Germany, the Ministry of Defense and its armed forces.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL JASHARI IN MEETING WITH MAYOR RAMA

The commander of the KSF, Lieutenant General Bashkim Jashari, welcomed the Mayor of Prishtina, Përparim Rama, to the meeting, whom he informed about the achievements of the KSF and its goals in the future. During the meeting, joint discussions were focused on the possibilities of institutional cooperation and joint projects with the aim of increasing and improving security, as well as the well-being of the citizens of the capital and KSFmembers.

Among other things, President Rama thanked General Jashari for the reception and at the same time they agreed on future coordination and deepening of cooperation in other areas of common interest.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE KSF LIAISON OFFICER AT WARMINSTER LAND WARFARE CENTER

The Minister of Defense, Armend Mehaj, together with the Deputy British Ambassador Jacob Webber, signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kosovo and the Ministry of Defense of the United Kingdom, for the appointment of the KSF liaison officer in the Center of Land Warfare - War Branch at Warminster. The signed memorandum is within the framework of the activities defined in the Kosovo-United Kingdom bilateral cooperation agreement, in the field of defense and security, signed between the two defense ministries on September 14, 2021.

The purpose of this memorandum is related to the need for cooperation and the desire to strengthen the bonds of friendship and understanding between the two countries, our ministries and forces.

THE TRAINING OF 400 KOSOVO HIGH SHCOOL STUDENTS ON BASIC FIRST AID KNOWLEDGE CONCLUDED WITH HIGH SUCCESS

After four days of activities in the KSF barracks, in the KSF Logistics Command, the project "Children Save Lives" carried out by the Albanian-American Medical Association, in cooperation with the medical staff of our Medical Regiment as the Civil Operations and Company. Minister of Defense Armend Mehaj, Commander of the Logistics Command, Brigadier General Naim Haziri and Commander of the Medical Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Rabit Dermaku. On this occasion, this project was evaluated by everyone as very valuable, expressing special gratitude to the Albanian-American doctors and international friends, in addition to the donation of much-needed equipment worth about 50 thousand dollars.

THREE DAY TRAINING LEAD BY US ARMY SPECIALISTS IN EUROPE AND AFRICA IS SUCCESSFULY COMPLETED

KSF service members and Ministry of Defense staff members have successfully completed the three-day training organized by the specialists of the United States Army in Europe and Africa (USAEUR-AF).

In addition to the American service members, the American advisor to the Minister of Defense for Strategic Communication, Thomas Niblock, has also contributed with his great experience.

The training held at the KSF barracks in Pristina, "Adem Jashari" was aimed at providing a general understanding of how to effectively disseminate the command's message through press releases and media engagements, as well as general understanding about social media and their applications during the exercise "Defender-Europe"23".

KSF SNIPERS ACHIEVE VERY HIGH RESULTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

In the Traditional International Competition "The Best Sniper Team'2022" which was held in Egirdir, Republic of Turkey, the KSF team achieved high results, where out of 26 teams from 12 forces of the participating countries, they were ranked on the fifth place.

This competition is held every year by elite teams of snipers from the forces of different countries of the world. The competition took place in different disciplines such as: shooting from the slopes, shooting from the boat, shooting from the helicopter, doubles shooting, shooting from the barricade, day and night navigation, shooting with a revolver, hiding and identifying the enemy, etc.

The KSF team demonstrated strong commitment and high professionalism by representing the KSF and the Republic of Kosovo in a dignified manner.

FSK DIVERS ARE TRAINED AT THE DIVING CENTER OF THE ALBANIAN NAVAL FORCES

The Water Platoon of the KSF Search and Rescue Company has conducted refresher training with the Diving Center of the Albanian Naval Forces in Pashaliman, Vlora. In addition to the fraternal cooperation between our forces, the purpose of this training is also the exchange of experiences in the field of diving as well as the advancement of skills in water search and rescue. Among other things, during the training, the use of the decompression chamber - barometer was also applied, in case of diver injury, as a measure of special importance for the safety and care of the diver's health.

KSF SERVICE MEMBERS IN PREPARATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL MULTINATIONAL EXERCISE “SABER JUNCTION 22”

Our service members are in intensive preparation for successful participation in the annual multinational Exercise Saber Junction 22, conducted by the US Army in Europe and Africa. This exercise is conducted to advance the interoperability and readiness of US forces with allied forces to execute unified ground operations in a joint and combined environment.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY, THE CHILDREN OF THE RAE COMMUNITY VISIT THE "ADEM JASHARI" BARRACKS IN PRISTINA

In the framework of June 1st - International Children's Day, the Ministry of Defense and Security Forces of Kosovo, in cooperation with the organization Balkan Sunflowers Kosova, organized the visit of 50 children of the Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma communities to the "Adem Jashari" Barracks in Prishtina.

Accompanied by KSF service members, the children had the opportunity to become familiar with military facilities and life. After visiting the barracks library, they watched the documentary about the KSF in the amphitheater of the Logistics Command. 1st of June is celebrated as a special occasion to promote children's rights and speak for those who still cannot speak for themselves. This date brings together different countries and groups dedicated to kindness towards children. Children commemorate and remember many life events, therefore from their impressions, this visit left special impressions and the desire that when they grow up, they will serve their homeland with honor and pride.